

In the specification:

On page 10, second full paragraph, at line 13, et seq, please amend as follows:

The fabric 20 impregnated with the biological and/or chemical decontamination reagent is then formed into a sheet of a central textile fabric having a front side and a rear side which is water vapor permeable and either liquid permeable or liquid impermeable depending on the spacing between fibers. The sheet is then positioned between a pair of sheets of outer textile fabrics, one of the sheets of outer textile fabrics is positioned on the front side of the sheet of central textile fabric and the other sheet of outer textile fabric positioned on the rear side of the sheet of central textile fabric. Each sheet of outer textile fabric is water vapor permeable and either liquid permeable or liquid impermeable. Fig. 4 shows a composite textile article 34 having a sheet of a central textile fabric 32 applied on opposite side with sheets of outer textile fabric 31 and 33. Sheets 31 and 33 may be composed of woven or non-woven fibers of a suitable polymer such a polyester, a polyolefin such as polyethylene, a polyamide or the like. In one embodiment of the invention at least one of the sheets 31 and 33 is a bullet resistant material such as SPECTRA SHIELD® synthetic fibers, GOLD SHIELD® synthetic fibers, or Z SHIELD® composite materials, commercially available from Honeywell International Inc., or a fabric made from Dupont's KEVLAR® synthetic fibers or Honeywell's SPECTRA® synthetic fibers. The outer layers may also be composed of a tear-resistant material such as nylon/cotton rip-stop materials. The finished product should also meet military specifications for protective gear set forth in the document MIL-DTL-32102A. It is within the contemplation of the invention that composite textile article has a central textile fabric comprising several individual layers of the central textile fabric material, each with a different biological and/or chemical decontamination reagent. One or both of the sheets of outer textile fabric may also comprise a plurality of the fibers having semi-opened micro-cavities; and which fibers have been impregnated with at least one biological and/or chemical decontamination reagent. In another embodiment, in addition to the fibers of the outer textile fabric being impregnated with the reagent powder

particles, the outer textile fabric is also impregnated with reagent powder particles, i.e. between the fibers.

On page 11, third full paragraph at line 28, et seq, please amend as follows:

Fig. 6 shows a full body protective suit 29 in a shape configured to contain all or part of a human body using the composite textile article of the invention. The suit is composed of a composite textile article 34 where the central textile fabric 32 is applied on opposite side with sheets of outer textile fabrics 31 and 33. In another embodiment of the invention, the full body protective suit 29 is not fully composed of a composite textile article 34. Rather the suit is composed of a known protective suit material such as a flexible rubberized material which is liquid, gas and vapor impermeable. The garment then has a cutout through the flexible fabric material as seen in Fig. 5. Then a panel of the composite textile article according to the invention is removably attached around a periphery of the cutout by a fastener such as VELCRO® Brand hook and burr material. In use, a breathable atmosphere is passed through the composite textile article panel to chemically modify, neutralize and/or decontaminate chemical and/or biological contaminants from the breathable atmosphere. This composite textile article would possess the properties of breathability with respect to air and water vapor, yet at the same time provide protection from chemical and/or biological contaminants.

On page 12, second full paragraph at line 22, et seq, please amend as follows:

A nonwoven fabric is produced comprising a linear array of TRIAD® nylon 6 fibers impregnated with a mixture of a strong oxidizing agent with a surfactant in an alkaline environment as the decontamination reagent. The reagent employed has activity for a broad range of chemical warfare agents. The linear array filter has a configuration, as shown in Fig. 1. A three layer composite is produced comprising an outer sheet of a nonwoven polyethylene to provide the water impermeability, the nonwoven layer of TRIAD® fibers impregnated with the mixture of decontamination reagent, and a woven

backing made from SPECTRA[®] synthetic fiber available from Honeywell International.
The three layers are sealed together at a hem such that it prevents the decontamination reagent from passing through the hem.